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What is claimed is:

1. An electronic bulletin board comprising:
 - an icon message generating portion for receiving a message and generating an icon message;
 - 5 a bulletin board screen generating portion for placing the generated icon message at a designated location;
 - 10 a display portion for receiving the output from said bulletin board screen generating portion and displaying the bulletin board on the screen; and
 - 15 a transmitting/receiving portion for communicating with a mobile information terminal, wherein said icon message generating portion receives a message from said mobile information terminal and converts the message to an icon, receives a request for reading said icon message and restores said icon message, and transmits the restored message to said mobile information terminal.
2. An electronic bulletin board according to claim 1, further comprising an input portion for inputting a message to be posted on the bulletin board, and inputting a request for reading said icon message.
3. An electronic bulletin board according to claim 1, wherein 25 said icon message generating portion generates said icon message that includes at least one of text information on, the initials, a nickname and a symbol of the receiver and/or the sender of the message, and stores said message in relation with said icon message,
- 30 said bulletin board screen generating portion executes processing for displaying said icon message on the screen, and, upon receiving a request for reading said icon message, said icon message generating portion outputs said message related to said icon message.
- 35 4. An electronic bulletin board according to claim 3, wherein

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5 said icon message generating portion generates said icon message that includes additional information containing at least one of the receiver's name, the sender's name, the transmission time, password information, the message headline, and the URL.

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5. An electronic bulletin board according to claim 1, wherein said bulletin board screen generating portion comprises:

10 a private area screen preparation portion for preparing a private area screen accessible only to specified persons;

15 a public area screen preparation portion for preparing a public area screen generally accessible to all users;

15 an area determination portion for receiving operational information relating to said icon message and determining whether the operation was done in said private area screen or said public area screen; and

20 a security management portion for permitting access to said icon message based on the determination result of said area determination portion.

20 6. An electronic bulletin board according to claim 5, wherein said icon message can be moved within said private area screen and/or public area screen, or between these screens, by a drag-and-drop operation, and, when said icon message crosses the boundary between said private area screen and said public area screen, the security level changes.

20 7. An electronic bulletin board according to claim 6, wherein said icon message is prepared in advance on an icon bar within the display screen, and can be placed within an arbitrary area by a drag-and-drop operation from said icon bar.

20 8. An electronic bulletin board system comprising:
a plurality of electronic bulletin boards; and
a central server which, upon receiving a request from a
35 mobile information terminal to access any one of the plurality of electronic bulletin boards, sends access information to said

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mobile information terminal,

wherein said electronic bulletin board comprises an icon message generating portion for receiving a message and generating an icon message, a bulletin board screen generating portion for placing the generated icon message at a designated location, a display portion for receiving the output from said bulletin board screen generating portion and displaying the bulletin board on the screen, and a transmitting/receiving portion for communicating with a mobile information terminal, wherein said icon message generating portion receives a message from said mobile information terminal and converts the message to an icon, receives a request for reading said icon message and restores said icon message, and transmits the restored message to said mobile information terminal,

said central server comprises a database for pre-storing the relationship between the locations of the plurality of electronic bulletin boards and the zones of a plurality of radio base station sites of said mobile information terminal, and said central server receives, together said access request, identification information for specifying the radio base station site used for communication by said mobile information terminal, retrieves said database based on said identification information and extracts the most preferred electronic bulletin board from among said plurality of electronic bulletin boards, and transmits access information on the extracted electronic bulletin board to said mobile information terminal.

9. An electronic bulletin board system according to claim 8, wherein said central server receives icon messages from said plurality of electronic bulletin boards, and unfolds the icon messages on its own bulletin board.

10. An electronic bulletin board system according to claim 9, wherein said central server manages icon messages classified by each of said plurality of electronic bulletin boards and transmits a portion or all of said icon messages to a portion